

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A comfort device for use with a mammography unit comprising:

an x-ray transparent compressible material and a partially radiopaque identifier that is permanently affixed to said compressible material, adapted with a partially radiopaque identifier, wherein a portion of said identifier comprises indicia which impart information about said material onto a mammogram.

2. (Original) The comfort device of claim 1 wherein said information is imparted onto said mammogram in an area away from a breast image.

3. (Original) The comfort device of claim 1 wherein said information is a symbol or word or bargraph or combinations thereof which indicate physical properties or manufacturer or location or combinations thereof about said comfort device.

4. (Original) The comfort device of claim 1 wherein said indicia is imprinted on said comfort device.

5. (Original) The comfort device of claim 1 wherein a portion of said identifier is radiopaque, said portion comprising paper or metal or plastic or combinations thereof and said indicia are x-ray transparent.

6. (Currently Amended) The comfort device of claim 1 wherein said identifier is embedded within ~~removably attached to~~ said compressible material.

7. (Original) The comfort device of claim 1 configured to define a cavity for containing a cassette holder, wherein said material substantially conforms to patient-contact surfaces of said cassette holder and wherein said indicia imparts information onto a first area of said mammogram.

8. (Original) The comfort device of claim 7 further comprising a cassette holder opening.
9. (Original) The comfort device of claim 1 configured to define a cavity for containing a compression paddle, wherein said material substantially conforms to patient-contact surfaces of said compression paddle and wherein said indicia imparts information onto a second area of said mammogram.
10. (Original) The comfort device of claim 1 wherein said x-ray transparent compressible material comprises a first area comprising a first total linear attenuation value and a second area comprising a second total linear attenuation value.
11. (Currently Amended) A comfort device for use with a mammography unit, comprising an x-ray transparent compressible material, and an identifying cover, and a first partially radiopaque identifier permanently affixed to said identifying cover, wherein said identifying cover ~~comprising~~ comprises x-ray transparent material ~~adapted with a~~ and said first partially radiopaque identifier ~~which~~ imparts information onto a mammogram.
12. (Original) The comfort device of claim 11 wherein said identifying cover is disposable.
13. (Original) The comfort device of claim 11 wherein said compressible material is adapted with a first opening and said cover is adapted with a second opening, both openings adapted to permit a mammography unit cassette to pass therethrough.
14. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing patient discomfort during a mammogram and for imparting information onto a mammogram about a comfort device, comprising:
securing said comfort device, wherein said comfort device comprises an x-ray transparent compressible material ~~adapted with~~ and a partially radiopaque identifier

comprising indicia that is permanently affixed to said compressible material, to a mammography unit comprising patient-contact surfaces;

positioning a patient such that said comfort device is disposed between said patient and said patient-contact surfaces;

administering a mammogram; and

recording said indicia onto said mammogram.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 comprising securing said comfort device to a cassette holder.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14 comprising securing said comfort device to a compression paddle.

17. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein said indicia are recorded radiographically onto said mammogram.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing patient discomfort during a mammogram and for imparting information onto a mammogram about a comfort device comprising:

securing said comfort device, wherein said comfort device comprises an x-ray transparent compressible material, and an identifying cover, and a partially radiopaque identifier, wherein said cover comprising comprises x-ray transparent material, adapted with a wherein said partially radiopaque identifier is permanently affixed to said identifying cover and comprising comprises indicia, to a mammography unit comprising patient-contact surfaces;

securing said identifying cover to said mammography unit;

positioning a patient such that said comfort device is disposed between said patient and said patient-contact surfaces;

administering a mammogram; and

recording said indicia onto said mammogram.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising positioning said identifying cover underneath said x-ray transparent compressible material.
20. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein said identifying cover is disposable.
21. (Original) The method of claim 20 further comprising positioning said identifying cover over said x-ray transparent compressible material.
22. (Currently Amended) A mammography unit comprising:
 - a compression paddle;
 - a cassette holder; and
 - a comfort device comprising an x-ray transparent compressible material adapted with and a partially radiopaque identifier that is permanently affixed to said compressible material, wherein a portion of said identifier comprises indicia which impart information about said comfort device onto a mammogram.
23. (Currently Amended) A method for recording the use of a comfort device in conjunction with a mammography unit comprising:
 - securing said comfort device comprising an x-ray transparent compressible material and a partially radiopaque identifier that is permanently affixed to said compressible material, said identifier comprising indicia about said material, to a mammography unit;
 - exposing said comfort device and said identifier to x-rays; and
 - producing a radiographic image of said indicia wherein said indicia comprises information about at least one physical property of said material.
24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 wherein said information comprises a total linear attenuation value of said material.
25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 further comprising administering a mammogram, simultaneously exposing a patient's breast and said identifier to x-rays; and

producing a radiographic image of said breast and said indicia wherein said indicia comprises information about at least one physical property of said material.

26. (Previously Presented) A method for recording the use of a comfort device in conjunction with a mammography unit comprising:

securing said comfort device comprising an x-ray transparent compressible material and a partially radiopaque identifier that is permanently affixed to said compressible material, said identifier comprising indicia about said material, to a mammography unit;

exposing said comfort device and said identifier to x-rays; and

producing a radiographic image of said indicia wherein said indicia comprises information about the manufacturer or product name or both of said material.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 further comprising administering a mammogram, simultaneously exposing a patient's breast and said identifier to x-rays; and producing a radiographic image of said breast and said indicia wherein said indicia comprises information about the manufacturer or product name or both of said material.

28. (New) The comfort device of claim 11 further comprising a second partially radiopaque identifier permanently affixed to said x-ray transparent compressible material, wherein said second partially radiopaque identifier imparts information about said compressible material onto a mammogram.

29. (New) The comfort device of claim 11 wherein said first partially radiopaque identifier is sealed within said identifying cover.